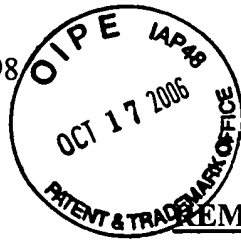




AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2-4. These sheets, which includes Figs. 2-4, replace the original sheets including Figs. 2-4. In Figs 2 & 3, they have been labeled "prior art" and in Figs. 2-4, the boxes have been labeled.



REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 7, 12 and 14 stand allowed, claims 2-6, 8-10 and 13 objected to in the outstanding Official Action. Claims 2 and 13 have been amended and therefore claims 1-10 and 12-14 remain in the application.

The Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document is very much appreciated. Additionally, the Examiner's consideration of the prior art submitted in Applicants' previously filed Information Disclosure Statement is appreciated.

The Patent Office objects to the Abstract, the arrangement of the specification and the Draftsman object to the drawings. It is also appreciated that the Examiner has brought the Abstract, the arrangement of the specification and the existence of Form PTO-948 to the applicant's attention. It is noted that the objection to the Abstract, the arrangement and this form appear to be an indication that the originally filed specification and drawings (transmitted from WIPO) do not meet the formality requirements of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Patent Office is reminded that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office must comply with all articles of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) including Article 27. It has been held that:

"if the rule and interpretation of the PTO conflicts with the PCT, it runs afoul of Article 27 of the PCT which provides in part:

- (1) No national law shall require compliance with requirements relating to the form or contents of the international application different from or additional to those which are provided for in this Treaty and the Regulations." Caterpillar Tractor v. Commissioner, 231 USPQ 590, 591 (EDVA 1986).

The Patent Office has referenced this decision in the Official Gazette dated September 9, 1986 (1070 TMOG 5).

As a consequence, the Patent Office (including the Chief Draftsman's Office) may not require Abstract changes, specification format changes and/or drawing corrections (including changes in paper size, margins, etc.) as long as the originally submitted documents comply with the PCT requirements. Inasmuch as this specification and these drawings were forwarded for WIPO, by definition, they meet the PCT requirements (they are not forwarded until they meet PCT requirements.). Therefore, the objection to the Abstract, the specification and the Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Notwithstanding the above, the Examiner objects to the abstract of the disclosure as including "means" language. The amended abstract has been modified to delete the objected to language. Appropriate headings and subheadings have been added to the specification. Applicants include herewith drawings with Figures 2 and 3 labeled "Prior Art" and the box elements in Figures 2, 3 and 4 identified. Substitution of these replacement sheets for the originally filed sheets of drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8-10 and 13 stand objected to, with the Examiner correctly noting that the word "structure" should be added after "shaped" at line 2 in claims 2 and 13. The above correction has been made to claims 2 and 13.

The allowance of claims 1, 7, 12 and 14 is very much appreciated and in view of the above amendments, claims 2-6, 8-10 and 13 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that remaining claims 1-10 and 12-14 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a

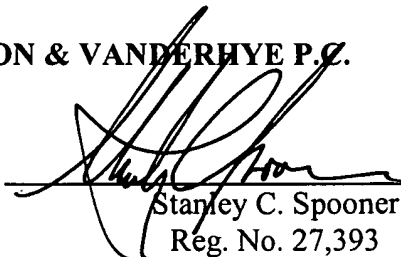
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brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By:



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